

Acclaim Investigations LLC
PO Box 596
Englewood CO 80113

Case: Colorado Independent Ethics Commission
Lawyer: Kyle Dumler
Investigator: Bill McBean
Subject: Ben Davis

Bill McBean: My name is Bill McBean, I'm an investigator for the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission; it's March 27, 2014. I'm with Ben Davis and Chantell Taylor doing an interview for the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission. Ben, do you know that this interview's being recorded?

Ben Davis: I do.

Bill McBean: Is that okay with you?

Ben Davis: Sure.

Bill McBean: Chantell, do you know this interview is being recorded?

Chantell Taylor: Yes.

Bill McBean: Is that okay with you?

Chantell Taylor: Yes.

Bill McBean: First of all, Ben, would you tell me a little bit about yourself and your company?

Ben Davis: Sure. I'm a [inaudible 00:41] consultant. I do a wide variety of work including communications, PR, business development.

Bill McBean: What is the name of your company?

Ben Davis: Onsite Public Affairs.

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood CO 80113

Bill McBean: What is your title, your function in [Hickenlooper 01:02] for Colorado?

Ben Davis: I'm a general consultant to the campaign.

Bill McBean: You're a contractor to the campaign?

Ben Davis: Mm-hmm. (affirmative)

Bill McBean: Who chose you for the post?

Ben Davis: The governor.

Bill McBean: The governor himself chose you?

Ben Davis: Well, I mean, we ran his first election, his first campaign, we were staff on the campaign.

Bill McBean: [inaudible 01:31]

Ben Davis: Yeah.

Bill McBean: Are you independent of Laura Warren? Are you Laura Warren's boss?

Ben Davis: We work with Laura Warren. She is her own contractor and works for the campaign as well. We work with her; at times supervise her, at times do as she asks us to do. It's a peer relationship.

Bill McBean: Casting your mind back to that July weekend in Aspen.

Ben Davis: Mm-hmm. (affirmative)

Bill McBean: Do you remember if Will Shafroth was there?

Ben Davis: I don't.

Bill McBean: What did you observe when you arrived that Friday in Aspen?

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood CO 80113

Ben Davis: It was beautiful. I got there in time for the Friday reception. I assisted in staffing the governor that evening. That was it.

Bill McBean: What did you assist them in doing?

Ben Davis: Have you ever staffed an elected official? You have? Staffed-

Bill McBean: I have not staffed an elected official, no.

Ben Davis: It's everything from taking business cards and helping him get to where he needs to be on time and conclude conversations for him if he has to leave early and making sure he's in the spot he needs to be in to give a speech.

Bill McBean: Do you remember who he met with on that Friday?

Ben Davis: There were couple hundred people there, so I'm assuming he talked to a large portion of the crowd.

Chantal Taylor: Do you mean at the reception, you mean that was? Just at the reception?

Bill McBean: Was he shaking hands at the reception?

Ben Davis: Yeah.

Bill McBean: How was that?

Ben Davis: Yeah. It was a reception.

Bill McBean: So he didn't have any private meetings you were at?

Ben Davis: Not that I'm aware of.

Bill McBean: During that time, did you solicit or were you offered any contributions-

Ben Davis: Nope.

Bill McBean: For (Hick's 03:47) campaign?

Acclaim Investigations LLC
PO Box 596
Englewood CO 80113

Ben Davis: No.

Bill McBean: I'm kind of trying to understand the nature of the DGA event, and you being a political professional, consent me on this because I'm a gumshoe and sometimes still don't understand the intricacies of the political process.

Ben Davis: I think you know more than you let on.

Bill McBean: Well, I was a newspaper reporter, too.

Ben Davis: Sure.

Bill McBean: I view it as an event where face time is traded off for cash contributions.

Ben Davis: Sounds very Hollywood.

Bill McBean: Well, that's why I'm asking you. If the policy part is in the window dressing. Tell me why I'm wrong.

Ben Davis: It's been my experience that all the DGA conferences that I've attended, that the policy piece is very central to why we're all there. The governor took part in that and your version of pay-to-play is not really in evidence in my time with the DGA at those conferences.

Bill McBean: Nonetheless everybody who is from the private sector who is there has paid.

Chantell Taylor: I just want you to-

Ben Davis: Let's be clear-

Chantell Taylor: I just want you to speak on your role, he wasn't there; he was there on behalf of the governor so I think this kind of goes outside his role.

Ben Davis: You can speak to the DGA about how their conferences work.

Bill McBean: Okay. Was the governor's private fundraiser Friday or Saturday?

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood CO 80113

Ben Davis: I don't know.

Bill McBean: You weren't up there in that capacity at all?

Ben Davis: I staffed him at the reception. That was it.

Bill McBean: That was your total?

Ben Davis: That was my total interaction with the governor.

Bill McBean: Laura Warren. Was she up there Friday?

Ben Davis: Yes, she was.

Bill McBean: She stayed up there on Saturday?

Ben Davis: I don't know what Laura did. You'll have to ask her.

Bill McBean: You didn't talk to her about what she was going to do, what her function was?

Ben Davis: Nope. I saw Laura at the Friday reception and that was it.

Bill McBean: You guys didn't get together before and plan?

Ben Davis: Not that I can remember.

Bill McBean: Did she ever talk to you about the Aspen event after it happened?

Ben Davis: Nope. You have to keep in mind my role is very much communications and the day-to-day operations of campaigns, so the fundraising and finance side of things is not my area of expertise.

Bill McBean: Thank you very much.

Acclaim Investigations LLC
PO Box 596
Englewood CO 80113

Proofread by Amber Mooney, Acclaim Investigations LLC 3/28/14 10:55 am